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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Application No.: U.S. National Stage
of PCT/JP00/05412

Filed: March 28, 2001

Docket No.: 109067

For: PRODUCTION METHOD OF SYNTHETIC SILICA GLASS AND THERMAL
TREATMENT APPARATUS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 21, lines 7-21, delete current paragraph and insert therefor:

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